



## **Fifth Year Research Option**

USC offers students the opportunity to take a full year to pursue a research experience with either a Keck School of Medicine faculty mentor or an approved faculty mentor at University Park or another institution. This program is open to any student in good to excellent academic standing who has completed his/her second year of medical school.

Students are requested to submit a letter of support from the USC faculty member who has agreed to serve as their preceptor for the year. This letter should serve to verify that he/she will serve as your preceptor and will provide financial support (the amount of the support should be stated in the letter). Please note that the amount of the support is comparable to a graduate research stipend at the post graduate level (contact the Office of Student Affairs for the exact amount). Students may select a faculty mentor from another institution if the research proposal is approved by the appropriate USC department chair.

Applications for this program are available on-line and in the Office of Student Affairs, KAM 100B. Once the application and proposal have been approved by the Medical Student Research Committee, students must receive approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to be placed on the Fifth Year Research Option Track.

## **Deans Research Scholarship**

Students who cannot secure funding from a faculty mentor may indicate on their application that they would like to be considered for a Deans Research Scholarship. The scholarship recipients are selected through a competitive process that includes review of the application by the dean and a committee of faculty. The application deadline to be considered for the Deans Research Scholarship is April 15, 2009.

The amount of the scholarship is comparable to a graduate research stipend at the post graduate level. If awarded a research scholarship the student will be required to submit a thesis at the end of the research year. Please see the attached thesis instructions.

For questions please contact:

Mandy Garcia [mandy.garcia@keck.usc.edu](mailto:mandy.garcia@keck.usc.edu)

Office of Student Affairs, 1975 Zonal Avenue, KAM 100B

Los Angeles, California 90089-9020

Telephone: (323) 442-2553

**Keck School of Medicine**  
University of Southern California

**Fifth Year Research Option**

Return original application to KAM 100B.

**Applicant Information:**

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Name	USC ID Number
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Mailing Address

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City/State/Zip	E-mail Address
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(      )	(      )	
Home Phone	Cell Phone/Pager	Year in School

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Dates of Proposed Period of Support

**Preceptor Information:**

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Faculty Preceptor

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Position Title

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Preceptor Signature

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School	Department
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Mailing Address

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City/State/Zip

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(      )	
Telephone	E-mail Address

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Please indicate if you would like to be considered for a  
Deans Research Scholarship.

Yes  No

### **Proposal Guidelines**

Application for the fifth year program should propose a specific research proposal for a project that can reasonably be completed in one year. This should be developed in close collaboration with the faculty preceptor, but must be written by the student. Use the following proposal format (3 page limit).

#### **1. Narrative Description of Proposed Research Activities:**

Please use the following proposal guidelines in preparing your research proposal.

##### **I. Specific Aims:**

- a. Overview and importance of research area
- b. State hypothesis to be tested
- c. List specific aims (experiments) that will test hypothesis (three at most)

##### **II. Background:**

Briefly review the pertinent literature concerning the project. This should show that the hypothesis is important and reasonable and that the data you will collect will critically test the hypothesis (one page limit)

##### **III. Preliminary Data:**

If you have any experience in this research area or already have some data, briefly present it.

##### **IV. Methods:**

List the experimental procedures to be used. If animals are involved\*, justify selection and use of numbers of animals requested. If humans are involved\*, show that the risk/benefit ratio is appropriate.

##### **V. Analysis:**

Discuss briefly what form the data will take and how the data will be analyzed.

#### **2. Curriculum Vitae**

Please submit a CV on a separate sheet(s) a list with inclusive dates of all scholarships, fellowships, awards and honors and teaching appointments. Please submit a detailed description of previous research projects, including copies of publications and papers submitted, along with short-and long-term career plans.

#### **3. Letter of Support**

You are requested to submit a letter of support from an USC faculty who will serve as your preceptor for the year. This letter should serve to verify that he/she will serve as your preceptor and will provide financial support (the amount of the support should be stated) for you during your fifth year. Students may select a faculty mentor from another institution if the program is approved by the appropriate USC department chair.

**Note:** It is your responsibility to contact your preceptor and request that his/her letter be sent directly to: Office of Student Affairs, USC Keck School of Medicine, 1975 Zonal Avenue, KAM 100B, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9020; Attention Mandy Garcia. Please call (323) 442-2553 if you have any questions.

**\*Approval by USC Research Committee for any studies involving Animals and Human Subjects must be obtained if project is approved by the Medical Student Research Committee.**

**Thesis Instructions**  
**Required only if awarded a Deans Research Scholarship**

**CHAPTER 1: Overview Of The Study**

- A. Background of the Problem
- B. Statement of the Problem
- C. Purpose of the Study
- D. Significance of the Study
- E. Research Questions
- F. Hypotheses
- G. Methodology
- H. Organization of the Study

**CHAPTER 2: Review Of The Literature**

- A. Literature Review
- B. Conclusions
- C. Implications

**CHAPTER 3: Research Methodology**

- A. Research Questions
- B. Research Design
  - 1. Research Population
  - 2. Instrumentation
  - 3. Data Collection
  - 4. Validity and Reliability
  - 5. Data Analysis

**CHAPTER 4: Results**

- A. Validity and Reliability

**CHAPTER 5: Discussion**

- A. Conclusions
- B. Relationship of Findings to Previous Literature
- C. Limitations
- D. Recommendations and Implications for Future Studies

**REFERENCES**